

51. A method for inducing an immune response in a mammal comprising administration of the polypeptide of Claim 28.

52. A method of diagnosing a *Neisseria meningitidis* infection, comprising identifying a polypeptide of Claim 28, or an antibody that is immunospecific for the polypeptide, present within a biological sample from an animal suspected of having such an infection.

53. A method for inducing an immune response in a mammal comprising administration of the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 29.

54. A therapeutic composition useful in treating humans with *Neisseria meningitidis* comprising at least one antibody directed against the polypeptide of claim 28 and a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in this case before the calculation of fees and before examination of the subject application.

Claims

Claims 1-27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute, in one or more patent applications, the canceled claims, the claims as originally filed, and any other claims supported by the specification.

New claims 28-54 have been introduced. No new matter is added.

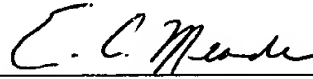
Support

Support for the new claims is either obvious, or is as described in the text below. Support for compositions of the isolated polypeptide which include an adjuvant recited in the claims may be found, for example, at page 37, lines 18-19. Support for the hybridization conditions may be found, for example, at page 14, lines 10-14. Support for the recitation of sequence relatedness such as in claim 45 may be found in the specification, for example, at page 47, line 12 through page 48, line 8.

Closing Remarks

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment prior to calculation of fees and Examination and Allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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